

S.N. 09/287,307

Art Unit 2128

REMARKS

Claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 12 and 13 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9-11, and 14-18 are currently pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10-11, and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. 101 and 102(b). However, the Examiner indicated that claims 2, 5, 6, 8, and 12-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and claim 8 depends from claim 7.

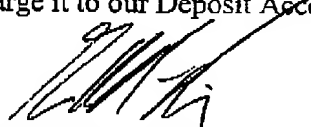
Accordingly, the applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 7 to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 8, respectively. Thus, claims 1 and 7, as amended, recite in independent form all of the limitations found to be allowable by the Examiner. Moreover, as claims 3 and 4 depend from amended claim 1 and claims 9-11, 14-18 depend from the amended claim 7, all of these claims contain the limitations of the allowable base claims.

In view of the above, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections of claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9-11, and 14-18 as they are now in condition for allowance.

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No fee for this Response is believed to be due. Should there be any unforeseen cost, please charge it to our Deposit Account No. 17-0055.



Respectfully submitted,

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